

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 753

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Blue Springs Christian Church upon its 110th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable institution, shining as a ray of hope in the Blue Springs Community for 110 years is Blue Springs Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, beginning humbly in a small building called Union Church in 1894, Blue Springs Christian Church came to the Blue Springs Community in Elizabethton through the inspiration of John Loveless; and

WHEREAS, after the Union Church building ceased to be available for use, the members of Blue Springs Christian Church began the plans for a building of their own; and

WHEREAS, members of the community agreed to volunteer their time and talents to the construction of the building and Mr. Loveless donated both the property and needed materials; the deed for the property is dated 1899, and the Charter Members were John Loveless, Jim Oliver, and Dave Bowers; and

WHEREAS, during the early years of the Church, revival meetings were held by several Ministers including Preachers Bass, Glover, and Jonathan Miller; the first Minister of the Church was Pless Williams, and he led the congregation once a month on both Saturday night and Sunday; many of the Ministers throughout these first years were students at Milligan College and the average Church attendance was 17; and

WHEREAS, during the pastorate of Grant Laws, another building project was undertaken, and a bell tower became the newest addition to the Church in 1932-33; later Sunday School classrooms were added; and



WHEREAS, Luther Boyd was called as the first full-time Minister in the 1940s and at this time the average attendance was 25; during Brother Boyd's ministry several revivals were held and new windows and light fixtures were installed; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hyder answered the Lord's call to the ministry of Blue Springs Christian Church in 1958; though funds were limited, the Lord always provided, and a piano was purchased as well as pews for the auditorium; this year marked the first Easter Sunrise Service held with their sister congregation, Carter Christian; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 1960s, new hymnals and an organ were purchased, a Church paper began to be distributed, signs were set up along the roadside, the parking area was repaired, and a new communion set was purchased; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Brother Lionel Talbott, the Church embarked upon a new building project; a baptistery, rest room facilities, a library, office, nursery and three classrooms were added; it was during this project that water was installed in the Church for the first time ever; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, during the ministry of Brother Mack Bennett, a fellowship hall and an auditorium were added to accommodate the growing membership, a van was also purchased to aid in their outreach to the community; and

WHEREAS, plans for construction of a parsonage were begun in 1979 and were indicative of the congregation's strong faith; much of the labor was voluntarily contributed by the members of the congregation; a PA system and new hymnals were purchased during this time as well; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 1980s the congregation saw the fruits of their dedication as the recorded attendance reached 170; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, three public school teachers who were active members of the congregation were honored upon their retirement from the educational system; and

WHEREAS, as advancements in technology began to provide more opportunities, the members decided in 1985 to purchase a copy machine to enhance the Church's ministry; and

WHEREAS, during the tenure of Brother Richard Thomason, the Church has purchased a new van, organ, PA system, pews, and hymnals; installed a handicap ramp, new windows,

and an awning; built a new porch, an addition to the stage area, and a carport for the van; renovated the bathroom facilities, the interior of the building, the fellowship hall, and the parsonage; and

WHEREAS, a lighted sign with a message board has been placed in order to call attention to the location of the Church and has been beautified with a brick flower box; flowers were donated by the Keith Church family; and

WHEREAS, a new building project has commenced in memory of Addie Oliver and is developing as the Lord provides; and

WHEREAS, the spiritual outlook of Blue Springs Christian Church has been broadened over the years as well; for the first time in the Church's history, the congregation sent a mission team to "Ninos de Mexico", an orphanage outside of Mexico City, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, individual classes within the Church have begun other ministries, such as the Ladies Class ministry to the needy in the area and the Young Adult Class ministry to the youth; and

WHEREAS, continuing to grow in the Lord's love, the Christians at Blue Springs Christian Church personify the words of Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"; and

WHEREAS, Blue Springs Christian Church is among those institutions upon which a just and orderly society is based; it is a focal point for our citizens to worship their Creator as a community of faith and from which they reach out to the secular community as a response to God's saving grace; and

WHEREAS, it is truly one of the great religious institutions of our State, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their 110 years of exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of the Blue Springs Community and Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with that great cloud of witnesses, both living and dead, who

constitute that community of faith known as Blue Springs Christian Church, in remembering and honoring 110 years of dedicated and fruitful work in the vineyards of the Lord.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.